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New USAID/Ethiopia Mission Director Tours Health and Education Programs in SNNPR

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) -- Mr. Glenn Anders, the newly arrived USAID/Ethiopia Mission Director, and members of the USAID health and education teams toured the Southern Nations, Nationalities People's Region (SNNPR) from July 19 – 21, 2006. Mr. Anders met with government officials at the Regional Health and Education Bureaus, including Dr. Shiferew T/Mariam and Ato Redwan Hussein, to discuss USAID's health and education programs in the region. Mr. Anders commended the excellent

collaboration that exists between USAID and the regional bureaus for more than a decade. Mr. Anders visited an HIV/AIDS Information Center in Debre Zeit, toured the Yirgalem Hospital HIV/AIDS treatment program, the Adama Health Center where USAID is supporting HIV testing and counseling through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Reduction (PEPFAR); and the Awassa Teacher Training College. As part of the USAID-Ministry of Education Community-Government Partnership

Program Mr. Anders met with parent representatives of a Parent-Teacher Association of the Yedget Fana primary school in Awassa and with community health promoters and reproductive health agents to discuss the challenges of keeping girls in school, stopping harmful traditional practices and resource mobilization at the community level.

USAID-supported health and education programs in SNNPR have helped increase the percentage of married women using

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Summit Promotes More Diverse, Robust U.S.-Africa Trade Ties

By Charles W. Corey
Washington File Staff
Writer

Abuja, Nigeria -- The relationship between the United States and Africa is a strong one because the ties that bind America with the nations of Africa are like the many interwoven colors of a kente

cloth, a colorfully patterned traditional African textile.

U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Thomas P. Furey made that point July 16 as he welcomed delegates at the Leon H. Sullivan VII Summit in Abuja, Nigeria, to the residence of U.S. Ambassador John Camp-

bell on the eve of the summit's official opening. Furey told the delegates that Africa is a continent of "enormous potential" and, accordingly, the U.S.-African business relationship will receive much attention during the July 17-20 summit.

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U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Ambassador Vicki Huddleston Tours ORBIS International Flying Eye Hospital

On July 13, 2006, Ambassador Vicki Huddleston visited ORBIS International's Flying Eye Hospital at the Addis Ababa Bole International Airport. Ambassador Huddleston was given a tour of the hospital by ORBIS International Medical Director, Dr. R. Douglas, as she talked to the medical team and training staff. ORBIS International's Flying Eye Hospital arrived in Addis Ababa on July 1 to give a two-week intensive eye care training program to Ethiopian ophthalmologists and supporting staff.



Better Systems Can Help Africans Achieve Their Dreams

By Charles W. Corey
Washington File Staff Writer

Abuja, Nigeria -- Africa's Number 1 challenge is building the "systematic capacity" that will allow Africans to shape their own future, former U.S. President Bill Clinton told delegates to the Leon H. Sullivan VII Summit July 17.

Speaking at a gala luncheon at the presidential villa in Abuja, Clinton said: "One thing that I have learned after traipsing all over the world is that intelligence, ability and effort are evenly distributed. But investment, opportunity, and organized, effective systems are not."

Clinton, who was the 42nd president of the United States, said he often reads that there is too much corruption in the developing world. "What there is, is too little capacity. When you create the absence of capacity, you create a vacuum in which all kinds of bad things happen. People need an organized way to proceed to a better future," and governments that govern in the right way can help in that regard, he said.

Clinton said his foundation currently is trying to help create capacity in health care. He cited the case of Lesotho, which, he said, is trying to become the first country in the world, in 2007, to offer a voluntary HIV/AIDS test to every citizen over 12 years of age. It needs to, he said, because Lesotho's infection rate is about 24 percent. Even though its population is only about 2 percent of Nigeria's, he said, if Lesotho is successful with its testing program, it can create a model that other nations can follow. He also praised Lesotho's govern-

ment for doing what President Obasanjo did when Clinton visited Nigeria during his presidential trip to Africa in 2000: "They have made it a national imperative that there should be no stigma attached to acknowledging their [HIV/AIDS] status."

Turning to Obasanjo, Clinton said: "When I came here to visit you, Mr. President, the best thing that you did was to embrace a woman who was HIV-positive on national television. ... That woman and her husband became known to both of us ... both of them were HIV-positive," but they had a child who was HIV-negative. "There can be millions more stories like that," he said, "but not if people are ashamed -- to find out their status, admit it, seek help and not infect others."

Clinton told his audience that 90 percent of people who are HIV-positive do not know, and many who are positive are afraid to confirm their status through medical testing because they fear discrimination or not receiving the drugs they need for treatment.

Mandatory testing is not what is needed, he said, but testing must be made available to everyone -- and all who test positive should get the medicine they need, free of taint or discrimination. "We cannot do this without building the capacity of government, without NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] working with government" and business cooperating as well, he said.

"We need a system to make all of this work," he stressed. Second, he said, consistent with the Sullivan Principles of Social

Justice, "if every employer in Africa said to all of their employees and their employees' families -- including their children when they reach a certain age: 'We want you to know your status because we want you to live. It is good for us if you stay healthy. We won't have to replace you. We won't have to train someone to do your job. We will have more customers if we can take the life expectancy from age 39 to 60. We want you to know, and if we know, we will never, never discriminate.'"

For this approach to work, he said, the governments and NGOs must cooperate with each other in partnership with the business community.

Clinton said the same thing holds true in development. He said he recently announced some initiatives in Malawi and Rwanda to work on economic development in a way that seeks to improve the quality of life and increase per capita income by improving agricultural productivity, education, energy supply, health and sanitation through a systematic approach. "We can do this, but we have to build systems that will endure, that other people can plug into," he said.

Clinton encouraged the delegates to look at the miracle economies of Asia. "I do not believe that they got where they were because they worked harder than people. It is really hard to be poor. ... It is not about intelligence or hard work. It's about the opportunity to be a part of a system that will reward your intelligence and your hard work."

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World Bank Chief Says African Development Remains Top Priority

By Charles W. Corey
Washington File Staff Writer



**Paul Wolfowitz, President,
The World Bank Group
(Photo: World Bank)**

Abuja, Nigeria -- "Don't blame the people for development failure," said World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz, who added that Africa remains his first development priority and stressed that government policy is an important component to successful economic development.

In a keynote address July 18 to the Leon H. Sullivan Summit VII in Abuja, Wolfowitz said, "People everywhere have talents, have energy. Most of all, almost everyone wants their children to have a better life and wants their children to escape poverty if they are living in poverty. That seems to me virtually universal.

"What is not universal is good government policy. That makes an enormous difference," he said.

Citing South Korea as an example, Wolfowitz said that country is now "one of the world's great success stories." He recalled that in 1965, when he was working on the U.S.

foreign aid budget as a government employee, "you could read articles about South Korea ... that said it was a hopeless basket-case ... and riddled with corruption."

Looking at South Korea now, he told the delegates, one can see that "government policy makes all the difference."

"Bad policy gets in the way of the private sector. Good policy gives the private sector, private businessmen, and private individuals the opportunity to realize the fruits of their own energy, their own creativity, their own intelligence, and in doing so, to create jobs and opportunity for other people."

Wolfowitz said sub-Saharan Africa stands in sharp contrast economically to much of the rest of the developing world.

"The last two decades in many parts of the world have been one of the most extraordinary success stories in human history in overcoming poverty." Citing World Bank statistics, Wolfowitz said some 500 million people have escaped extreme poverty, with about 300 million of those people living in China and the rest residing in other successful economies in East Asia, India and in some parts of Latin America.

"The sad part is [that] sub-Saharan Africa, so far, stands in sharp contrast. During those same 20 years," he recalled, "the number of people in extreme poverty in this part of the world doubled from 150 million to 300 million. Every other person in the sub-continent lives on less than a dollar a day," a situation he called both "stunning

and disturbing." That, he said, is in spite of some \$300 billion in foreign assistance to the continent annually.

It is not just low income that afflicts the region, he said, but also the plague of HIV/AIDS and malaria. One million children die of malaria each year in Africa, which means around 3,000 children a day, he added. Wolfowitz reminded his audience that there was a time that malaria existed also in Washington and foreign diplomats serving there once received hardship pay for the assignment. But malaria, a preventable disease, long has been eradicated in Washington, he said, and "it can be eradicated in sub-Saharan Africa."

Wolfowitz said early in his tenure as World Bank president he met with the African governors of the bank. "What was stunning to me was one presentation after another, thoughtful, focused, to the point ... centering [on] the common theme of the need to improve governance, the need to fight corruption."

The World Bank president praised anti-corruption efforts that have returned millions of dollars to public coffers. "Things have changed in Africa. They have changed dramatically," Wolfowitz said.

Wolfowitz said he chose to make Africa the destination of his first overseas trip as World Bank president. He visited Nigeria, Rwanda, Burkina Faso and South Africa. "I saw enormous energy and drive and people willing to work hard, even in the most difficult conditions."

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Summit Promotes More Diverse, Robust U.S.-Africa . . .

(Continued from page 1)

The 2006 summit's theme is "Africa: A Continent of Opportunities -- Building Partnership for Success."

Noting that Africa is a key supplier of oil, metals and textiles to the United States and that many U.S. firms, both large and small, have business and investment ties with the continent, Furey said the U.S.-Africa trade relationship has potential to be "much more diverse and robust," adding, "You gain interest only on what you invest," a quote from an African proverb.

"I believe that the Sullivan Summit is a step toward realizing an investment in the future of Africa," he said.

One color of the kente cloth that is represented at the summit, he told his audience, is the official government-to-government relationships reflected in the many official delegations attending the event.

"Though diplomats and embassies do the day-to-day work of managing these relationships," he said, "I believe we are all well served when other officials take the time to travel and gain a deeper understanding of the issues that confront our friends and partners overseas."

He urged delegates not to underestimate the power of personal ties between individuals across diverse national and cultural lines. "These are the ties that weave the foundation for strong friendship and understanding among nations," he said. "These are the ties that make relationships real and concrete, that shape our hearts and lives."

Furey went on to cite another African proverb: "It is not possible for one foot to create a footpath."

Likewise, he said, it is impossible to weave a kente cloth out of just one color. "Africa can rely on the cooperation and good will of her friends to build a future of opportunity for her people," he pledged.

Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young, who is a co-chair of the meeting, said the United States has benefited greatly from the depth of African intellectualism and ingenuity, noting there are more Nigerian-American engineers in the United States now than in Nigeria.

"So part of our challenge in coming back is to help Africa do what India has finally done," he said, and that is to encourage its people to learn all they can abroad, make a lot of money and then bring it home to their people. "It is our time to start bringing back to Mother Africa," he said.

BRAIN DRAIN?

Two delegates among his listeners are scheduled to address the summit on the topic of how to reverse what is often called a "brain drain" of technical and intellectual capital from the developing world. Tope Esan, director of consulting for the Statscorp Analyst firm, a U.S. company, said developing world governments must create conditions that will attract professionals to return home.

Speaking of Nigeria, Esan, who is a Nigerian-American living in the United States, said, "There is money to be made here," but the message has to get out to the

right people of African descent in the world at large.

He said there are about 4 million Nigerians in the United States, many of whom rank among top African earners. "Nigerians are making an impact in the diaspora. It is just a question of getting them back here to do some of those things that they are doing very well," he said.

Also attending the summit as a delegate and speaker is Howard Jeter, former U.S. ambassador to Nigeria. "Reverend Sullivan always wanted to have the summit in Nigeria," Jeter told the Washington File, but, unfortunately, it did not happen during his lifetime.

Sullivan, who died in 2001, "recognized the importance of Nigeria and its centrality in Africa," Jeter said, "and that what happens in Nigeria impacts the entire continent."

The summit has as its overall theme "Africa: A Continent of Opportunities -- Building Partnerships for Success."

Additional information (<http://www.thesullivanfoundation.org/foundation/>) about the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation and its past summits is available on the organization's Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

U.S. Law Enhancing Africa's Economy But More Can Be Done

By Charles W. Corey
Washington File Staff Writer

Abuja, Nigeria -- The historic African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is helping to stimulate economic growth and investment in sub-Saharan Africa, but it is "not succeeding enough," said Florizelle Liser, assistant U.S. trade representative for Africa.

AGOA is a U.S. law that provides duty-free access to wide range of some 6,400 products -- including textiles -- into the U.S. market for African nations willing to reform their economies along free-market lines. The landmark trade legislation -- the first of its kind with

Africa -- was passed by Congress in 2000 and since has been amended and renewed. (See African Growth and Opportunity Act (http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade_economic_development/agoa.html).)

Addressing the Leon H. Sullivan VII Summit in Abuja July 17, Liser said it is important to build on the law's success by looking at the "supply-side constraints" that can be found on the Africa side of the equation. "They are the things that governments are doing or not doing that do not encourage trade," she said.

"Africa, as a continent, trades the least among itself of all the continents," she said. "If Africans are not exporting their products to each other, the chances are that those products that could be more competitive are not rising to the top and preparing for the global competition" that awaits Africa in the international marketplace.

"Before an African country can get good at exporting prawns to Europe and to Asia, it needs to be exporting those prawns to its neighbors in Africa. That is where your barriers to each other's trade are important," she said.

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New Egyptian Press Law Restricts Free Speech, U.S. Official Says

By Carolee Walker
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The Egyptian government should take a close look at its new law imposing curbs on what journalists can write about in that country, said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack at a briefing July 11.

"It is essential to have a free press as part of the political dialogue within a country that is wrestling with issues of political as well as economic reform," McCormack said.

The law, which the Egyptian parliament passed July 10, imposes fines on members of the press who criticize the government. A last-minute intervention by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak removed a provision on prison terms

for criticizing the financial integrity of public figures, but journalists still can be jailed for stories defaming Egyptian officials and foreign heads of state.

"We are strong supporters of freedom of the press, in Egypt as well as elsewhere," McCormack said. In published reports, Joe Stork of Human Rights Watch, a nongovernmental organization, said, "Criticizing public officials should not be a criminal offense at all, much less one punishable by prison terms."

Twenty-five independent newspapers in Egypt went on strike July 9 to protest the proposed legislation. Several independent newspapers welcomed Mubarak's intervention to change the legislation but vowed to continue fighting for additional changes that would elimi-

nate the threat of prison sentences for journalists.

The United States and Egypt share close ties and annual U.S. aid to Egypt is nearly \$2 billion. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/Archive/2006/May/18-612461.html>).)

In June, the United States signed a declaration of principles with Egyptian government officials bringing two U.S. security programs to Egypt. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/Archive/2006/Jun/23-818780.html>).)

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United States, Russia Support Peaceful Use of Nuclear Technology

By Stephen Kaufman
Washington File White House
Correspondent

St. Petersburg, Russia -- President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin said nuclear energy, as a reliable power source that does not emit greenhouse gases, is an "essential part" of any solution to meet the world's growing energy demand, and pledged their countries would cooperate to allow all nations to benefit from nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

According to a joint statement released July 17 before the close of the 2006 Group of Eight (G8) summit with the leaders of

Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom, the two leaders are united in their "determination to help make the benefits of nuclear energy securely available to all for peaceful purposes."

The statement said both Russia and the United States believe nuclear energy is essential to energy security, and is a "proven" economical, environmentally safe means to provide reliable electric power. Bush and Putin added that they plan to conclude a bilateral cooperation agreement, through which other nations will gain an "additional assurance of access" to the technology.

The statement said that "reliable and sufficient energy supplies are the cornerstone of sustainable economic development and prosperity for all nations, and a necessary condition for maintaining international stability."

(See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=July&x=20060716174913ikcinawza0.5364801>).)

The two leaders said their countries intend to work together, with the active involvement of the

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German Children's Library Welcomes First Lady Laura Bush

By Anita N. Wadhwani
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- First lady Laura Bush opened July 13 the America at Your Library program at the Stralsund Children's Library in Stralsund, Germany.

"Books in this America at Your Library collection tell the story of the United States, describing my country's history, unique culture, and diverse society, and also, as you can tell from some of these on the bottom, a lot about American sports," said the first lady, a former librarian.

The America at Your Library program, started in 2001, is a campaign sponsored by the American

Library Association (ALA) to bring back the excitement of going to the library as not only a source of information but as a source of entertainment, educational programs, and a dynamic learning atmosphere that is sometimes taken for granted, according to the ALA. The main focus is to "increase awareness about the vibrancy, vitality and real value of today's libraries, to galvanize public support and ultimately influence public policy and impact funding," the association says.

While the America at Your Library program has been widespread in the United States, an international division of the initiative, known as the Campaign for the World's Libraries, was also created in 2001



**First Lady
Laura Bush**

to allow other countries to take part in library and reading advocacy.

In an effort to educate children and young adults globally, the Campaign for the World's Libraries, co-sponsored by the ALA and the International Federation of Library

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New Draft Resolution on North Korea Not Strong Enough, U.S. Says

By Judy Aita
Washington File United Nations
Correspondent

United Nations -- A new Russian-Chinese draft resolution on North Korea submitted to the U.N. Security Council July 12 has very serious omissions but is a positive move overall, U.S., Japanese and French officials say.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton called the Russian-Chinese proposal "a significant step," pointing out that Russia and China initially wanted a press statement after the North Korean missile launches July 4, then a few days later suggested a presidential statement, which is not binding on U.N. member nations.

"Now they have introduced a draft resolution ... which is the appropriate measure through which the Security Council should act," Bolton said July 12. Russia and China "have now joined all the other members of the council who have preferred a resolution from the time the missiles were launched."

French Ambassador to the United Nations Jean-Marc de La Sabliere said the draft showed a "meaningful evolution" in the Russian and Chinese positions.

The Chinese-Russian draft deplores North Korea's July 4 missile launches, urges Pyongyang to reestablish its missile test moratorium and calls on nations to "exercise vigilance" in preventing the supply of goods, technology and materials that could be used in North Korea's missile program.

The Russian-Chinese draft "is a welcome move in the right direction," Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations Kenzo Oshima said the same day. "But a quick glance at the text shows that there are very serious gaps on very important issues."

"I believe that it will be very difficult for us to accept that as it is," Oshima said.

According to Bolton, one of the deficiencies in the text is the failure to declare the North Korean missile program a threat to international peace and security. Another is the failure to invoke Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which makes the resolution mandatory.

"We have felt from the time we learned of the launch of North Korean missiles that a Chapter 7 binding resolution is necessary because we want to bind North Korea," the U.S. ambassador said. "Now if there is language that the Russians and Chinese have to propose that [has] the same effect of binding the North Koreans, then I suppose we're happy to take a look at it."

The new draft resolution dealing with North Korea's launch of several ballistic missiles and its nuclear program is a counter to a more strongly worded Japanese draft resolution co-sponsored by Denmark, France, Greece, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and the United States. That draft, which is awaiting U.N. Security Council action, would impose mandatory economic sanctions if North Korea does not immediately end developing, testing and deploying the missiles. (See

related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=July&x=20060711182603ajatia0.829693>).)

Russia and China have objected to the Japanese draft resolution, and Chinese Ambassador Wang Guangya said July 12 that he would veto the measure if put to a vote as it now reads.

The co-sponsors of Japan's resolution have said they are prepared to put their draft to a vote but are assessing the situation day-to-day while a Chinese diplomatic mission in North Korea attempting to draw Pyongyang back to the Six-Party Talks with South Korea, Russia, Japan, China and the United States.

Oshima said that "so far, not much apparently has happened" with the Chinese mission.

For more information on U.S. policies, see The U.S. and the Korean Peninsula (http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/east_asia_pacific/north_korea.html) and Arms Control and Non-Proliferation (http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/arms_control.html).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>.)

Rice Calls for Lebanon-Israel Cease-Fire when Conditions Permit

By Anita N. Wadhvani
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- With ongoing attacks between the Israeli military and Lebanon-based militant group Hizballah intensifying, Bush administration officials said action by three parties – Iran, Syria and Hizballah – is key to resolving the crisis.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told reporters July 18 that “a cease-fire is imperative and we have to keep working to reach that objective.” When asked if a cease-fire should take effect immediately, Rice responded, “We all agree that it should happen as soon as possible when conditions are conducive to do so.”

President Bush told reporters that the leaders of the G8 reached “a very strong consensus that the world must confront the root causes of the current instability. And the root cause of that current instability is terrorism and terrorist attacks on a democratic country. And part of those terrorist attacks are inspired by nation states, like Syria and Iran. And in order to be able to deal with this crisis, the world must deal with Hizballah,

with Syria and to continue to work to isolate Iran.”

“A cease-fire that would leave intact a terrorist infrastructure is unacceptable,” White House press secretary Tony Snow told journalists July 18. “So what we’re trying to do is work as best we can toward a cease-fire that is going to create not only the conditions, but the institutions for peace and democracy in the region.”

He said that Iran and Syria hold tremendous sway over Hizballah and should use their influence to persuade the group to stop firing at Israel.

Snow said that President Bush feels Syrian President Bashar Assad “is not doing what he can to create the conditions for stability,” which Snow said would include, “stop housing terrorist organizations and providing safe haven for them, and permitting people to conduct terrorist operations, or at least planning, on his soil.”

Bush speculated that Syria might be trying to reassert its influence in Lebanon. Syrian troops were forced from Lebanon in 2005 following an international outcry over Syria’s suspected involvement in

the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri. Bush said it is in the interest of the international community for Syria to stay out of Lebanon and for the Lebanese government of Prime Minister Fuad Siniora to survive.

Snow called for an end to Hizballah’s provocation of Israel and full compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions on Lebanon. “What we would like to see happen is the [Israeli] soldiers returned, the rocket firing stopped, and at that point try to go back to U.N. Security Council resolutions 1559 and 1680; 1559 calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, for disbanding of all militias and for the effective control by the elected government of Lebanon over all its territory,” he said.

Addressing concerns over Lebanon’s weak government, Snow added that additional steps would involve providing the Lebanese government enough security so it effectively can lead its country.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

Better Systems Can Help Africans . . .

(Continued from page 3)

The former U.S president asked everyone to think of where they want Africa to be five years from now: “What changes would have to be made to governments ... in the nongovernmental sector ... in the private sector, and how can we do them together so that every

boy and girl now living in every country on this continent has the chance to live his or her dreams?” he asked.

“If you really want to reap the full promise of the principles for which Leon Sullivan gave his life, we must have partnership, because we must build systematic opportu-

nities for people’s intelligence, abilities and efforts to be rewarded,” he concluded.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

U.N., U.S. Action in Lebanon Awaits Return of Peace Mission

By Judy Aita
Washington File United Nations
Correspondent

United Nations -- While waiting for the results of a special U.N. peace mission to the Middle East, the Security Council July 17 began discussing ways it could contribute to a sustainable and lasting solution in the region.

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton, after a closed door council meeting, said that the real solution to the crisis lies in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1559, passed by the council in September 2004. The resolution calls for "the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias."

If the militias were disbanded, Bolton said, "not only would Israel not be subject to terrorist attacks such as rockets and kidnappings by Hizballah, but the people of Lebanon wouldn't be subject to the reign of terror that Hizballah inflicts as well."

The "sad fact" of the situation is that "until terrorism is eliminated in the form of Hizballah in Lebanon and the Palestinian armed militia Hamas and the Occupied Territories; until everyone renounces terrorism these problems are going to continue," the ambassador said.

Bolton and the Security Council president, Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere of France, agreed that the implementation of Resolution 1559 is the key and noted that leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) nations -- who just completed a meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia -- and other members of the 15-nation council would be work-

ing to find ways to implement the resolution more effectively. The G8 comprises Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and Russia.

"Having Lebanese authority extending the whole territory is key," de La Sabliere said. "Ending violence on the blue line is key. Being sure the civilian population is not attacked is key."

For the United States, Bolton said, that means other aspects of the situation must be addressed as well, such as the disentanglement of Syria from Lebanon, Syria's full cooperation with the U.N. investigation into the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri (known as the Brammertz investigation) and the cutting off of financial assistance to terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hizballah by Syria and Iran. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=June&x=20060614174616ndyblehs0.252041&t=xarchives/xarchitem.html>).)

U.N. MISSION TO LEBANON

The Security Council was briefed by U.N. Under Secretary for Political Affairs General Ibrahim Gambari.

Gambari said that U.N. mission headed by Vijay Nambiar left Lebanon after meeting with Prime Minister Faud Siniora with "some specifics" to discuss with Israel.

"The situation in Lebanon has sharply deteriorated over the weekend [July 15-16] to the point where we are now in the situation

of an open war," the U.N. official told journalists after meeting with the council. "The consequences are serious and the impact is devastating not only on Lebanon and Israel but on the entire Middle East."

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan intends to work with the Security Council on "a package of actions that are practical and requires the parties to release their abductees, stop the rocket launchings and attacks, and Israel end its military action," Annan said. He also suggested a "stabilization force" be considered by the council.

Bolton said that any deployment of any new force for the region would have to be weighed carefully.

One consideration for the council, the U.S. ambassador said, is "how can we assist the people and the government of Lebanon to take full control over their territory."

"The Lebanese armed forces unfortunately have not been able to exercise full control over their territory; first, because of the presence of Syrian troops, now the continued presence of Syrian intelligence services, and because of the presence of armed militia groups -- both Lebanese and non-Lebanese -- that are funded by Syria, Iran and other outsiders," Bolton said.

It would be a mistake for the council to "avoid the work that could be done to strengthen the Lebanese armed forces and other security forces consistent with [Resolution] 1559," he said.

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Rice Calls for Release of Israeli Soldiers, Urges Restraint

By David Shelby
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the abduction of Israeli soldiers is at the origin of the current crisis in the Middle East and called for their safe return in order to defuse the conflict.

"[I]t is extremely important that the abductions stop and that the soldiers be returned safely," Rice told reporters during a July 13 press briefing in Germany.

Israel launched an assault on Gaza June 27 following rocket attacks on Israeli towns and the abduction of Corporal Gilad Shalit from an Israeli army post near the Gaza border. On July 12, the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah showered rockets into northern Israel and abducted two soldiers near the border prompting Israeli forces to open a second front in Lebanon.

Rice reaffirmed the Bush administration's position that Israel has a right to defend itself, saying, "[W]e would not ask of any country that it not take steps to stop the kind of rocket attacks that have been going on against Israel."

Nevertheless, she called on Israel to exercise restraint as it acts in self-defense. She said she has spoken to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and urged them to "be concerned about civilian casualties, be concerned, of course, about civilian infrastructure."

She said it is important for Israel to be mindful that its long-term security interests lie in the development of stable, democratic states in the

region and that Israel should not act in such a way as to undermine the Road Map peace process with the Palestinians or the fragile democracy taking root in Lebanon.

"[I]t is, in the case of Lebanon, especially important that Israeli actions not undermine a new, fledgling democratic government, which obviously has its problems in that it has within it Hezbollah, which is the source of these attacks," she said.

Rice urged the countries of the region to play a constructive role in defusing the crisis and praised Egyptian efforts to that end. She called on Syria to end its support for the terrorist activities of Hezbollah and Hamas and said Damascus should use its influence with those organizations to secure the release of the abducted Israeli soldiers.

The secretary gave her full support to the mission of the U.N. team sent by Secretary-General Kofi Annan to try to resolve the conflict, calling it "the best opportunity now for de-escalation of this crisis."

She said the current crisis is a reflection of the problems that arise when groups seek to maintain one foot in politics and another in terrorism.

"Hamas is clearly not delivering a better life for the Palestinian people because they have one foot in terror. Hezbollah is not helping the Siniora government to deliver a better life for the [Lebanese] people because they have one foot in terror," she said.

The secretary defended the U.S. veto of a July 13 U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel for its incursion into Gaza, saying, "The U.S. veto does not mean that we are unconcerned about this crisis in the Gaza. Obviously, we're very concerned about it... But it does not help to have a resolution that doesn't address in a concrete and useful way the origins of this crisis -- that is, the abduction and the rockets -- and it doesn't help to have a resolution that has inflammatory language about one of the parties."

The Security Council met again July 14 to discuss Israel's actions in Lebanon. At that meeting, U.S. Ambassador John Bolton called Hezbollah's July 12 incursion into Israel "a deliberate and premeditated provocation intended to undermine regional stability and ... contrary to the interests of both the Lebanese and Israeli people."

He said, "All militias in Lebanon, including Hezbollah, must disarm and disband immediately and the Lebanese government must extend and exercise its sole and exclusive control over all Lebanese territory."

He said Syria and Iran must also be held accountable for their support of terrorism in the region, particularly their sponsorship and financial assistance to Hezbollah and Hamas. "No reckoning with Hezbollah will be adequate without a reckoning with its principal state sponsors of terror," he said.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

G8 To Pursue "Tangible Progress" Against Infectious Disease



disease as a key strategy in preventing the emergence of a human pandemic.

The document also calls for nations to fulfill the pledges of \$2 billion made at a January conference to assist vulnerable nations in enhancing their response to the disease.

Washington – Infectious diseases are the leading cause of death worldwide, inhibiting progress and development in many nations, and leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) nations “are determined to achieve tangible progress” to lessen the burden of disease.

The avian influenza pandemic among birds that emerged in late 2003 and the threat it poses of turning into a human influenza pandemic have brought an increased focus on surveillance and monitoring of infectious diseases in a series of international meetings over the last year.

The G8 leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United States and the United Kingdom echo the importance of that goal in a document adopted July 16 at the G8 summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, and further emphasize the need for building laboratory capacity and intensifying scientific research and exchanges in the area of infectious diseases.

The communiqué, “Fight Against Infectious Diseases,” singles out the current response to the dangerous H5N1 bird flu strain that has affected hundreds of millions of birds in more than 50 countries. It pledges G8 support for the efforts of international organizations to contain and control the animal

“A robust and comprehensive program of assistance to vulnerable affected countries, particularly those in the developing world, is an essential part of our global response to avian and pandemic influenza,” the document says.

The 2006 document reaffirms commitments made in the past on mobilizing support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and other multilateral initiatives targeting polio and searching for an HIV vaccine.

In expressing its concerns about HIV/AIDS, the G8 nations say their response to the disease will follow certain principles, such as a well-balanced attack on the disease – including prevention, treatment and care – with the involvement of partners from all social sectors.

The G8 also endorses efforts to reduce stigma and discrimination against HIV-positive persons, and to reduce infection among young people, women and girls.

The communiqué also acknowledges the broad systemic changes that will be necessary if lesser-developed nations are to make real progress in lessening the disease burden.

“The limited capacity of health systems is a major barrier to com-

ing as close as possible to universal access to treatment for those who need it by 2010,” said the communiqué. The G8 leaders agree to sustain efforts to support developing nation governments to work for increasing the sustainability of their health systems.

The G8 also encourages greater investment in research, development and production of drugs and vaccines to address global diseases impeding development, and calls for innovation in strategies to promote those goals.

In an annex attached to the document, the United States pointed out the contributions it has made to improve international health. The United States is providing \$15 billion over five years to support international HIV/AIDS programs and has pledged \$362 million for countries to prepare for, detect and rapidly respond to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza. The United States is also a significant contributor to multilateral efforts to address tuberculosis, polio, children’s health, and expand infectious disease research.

For ongoing coverage of U.S. efforts to advance international health, see Health (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/health.html).

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>.)

Bush Praises G8 Statement on Middle East for Addressing Terror

By Stephen Kaufman
Washington File White House Correspondent

St. Petersburg, Russia -- President Bush welcomed the statement by Group of Eight (G8) leaders concerning the violence in the Middle East, saying he is pleased that he and his counterparts from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United Kingdom came together in a statement to "condemn violence," and "honor innocent life."

In remarks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh July 17, before the second day of discussions at the G8 summit, Bush said the heads of state had "cobbled together a very important statement" on July 16 that blames extremist activity for the violence and recognizes Israel's right to self-defense, while calling upon it to show restraint in its actions.

"[F]or the first time we've really begun to address with clarity the root causes of the conflict, the recent conflict in the Middle East, and that is terrorist activity -- namely, Hizballah, that's housed and encouraged by Syria, financed by Iran, are making these moves to stop the progress of peace," Bush said, adding that the G8 leaders hope that "by addressing the conditions of this violence we could get to a situation where there was calm."

The full text (<http://en.g8russia.ru/docs/21.html>) of the statement is available on the official Web site of the G8 summit.

In a related development, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, also meeting in St. Petersburg, called for international forces to be deployed into southern Lebanon in order to stop

Hizballah from launching further attacks against Israel.

BUSH, INDIAN PRIME MINISTER DISCUSS STRATEGIC COOPERATION

Addressing Prime Minister Singh, the president said he is optimistic that the U.S. Congress will pass legislation that will allow and encourage civilian nuclear cooperation between the United States and India.

The Indian leader thanked the president and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice for their efforts in supporting the legislation, and said the two countries enjoy "landmark cooperation" on energy and other issues.

He said the U.S.-India Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture, agreed to in November 2005, has "initiated a

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U.N., U.S. Action in Lebanon Awaits . . .

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"There may be many ways of providing assistance to the Lebanese armed forces. There may be kinds of international forces that could be considered along the lines of the multinational force in the Sinai, rather than a U.N. peacekeeping force."

The Security Council hopes to have the results of the U.N. mission by midweek in order to evaluate possible short-term measures as it considers how to deal with the larger problem.

Council President de La Sabliere said that in the course of three private meetings the council has had over the past few days "there is a willingness . . . to work on the sustainable and lasting solution."

At the U.S. State Department, spokesman Sean McCormack confirmed that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice would visit the Middle East. He did not set a date, but said it would be after the U.N. team returns to New York. "She does want to have a sense from the U.N. mission what it is that they're hearing, what it is that they have accomplished."

"Her goal in traveling to the region would be to try to further the diplomacy that would lay the groundwork for a lasting cessation of violence," he said, adding, "We want to see a cessation of violence in such a way that the world doesn't end up back in the same position in which we find ourselves right now."

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U.S. Cherishes Individual Rights, Official Tells U.N. Committee

By Carolee Walker
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – The United States has confronted new challenges at home as it has sought to protect the public and respect individual rights in accordance with the Constitution and U.S. law, said Matthew Waxman, head of the U.S. delegation appearing before the U. N. Human Rights Committee in Geneva July 17. Waxman presented the U.S. report on its implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The United States overhauled its law enforcement efforts after the attacks in the United States by al-Qaida terrorists, Waxman said, and took critical measures to secure the country against further attacks. Congress revised U.S. laws to address new threats, and did so in a manner consistent with the

Constitution and U.S. law, including the country's international treaty obligations, Waxman said.

"We cherish our vigorous democratic processes – which benefit from comprehensive freedoms of speech, assembly and the press – our strong and independent judicial system, and our well established body of constitutional, statutes and common law designed to protect civil and political rights," Waxman said. "People in the United States share a culture and history of challenging their government through judicial processes."

Waxman is principal deputy director of policy planning at the U.S. Department of State.

The Human Rights Committee, meeting July 17-18 in Geneva, reviews reports submitted by U.N. member states on their compliance

with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Human Rights Committee, composed of 18 independent experts, is unrelated to the U.N. Human Rights Council. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/Archive/2006/Apr/07-534030.html>).)

As the United States works to implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights at home, Waxman said, it continues to promote respect for human rights around the world. In 2006, the U.S. government will spend \$1.4 billion on programs and activities advancing democracy and human rights, Waxman said.

Waxman told the committee he is aware of the "intense international interest about a wide range of issues relating to the actions of the

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Bush Praises G8 Statement on Middle East . . .

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second green revolution" in India, and the development of new agricultural techniques "means a great deal" to India, where 65 percent of its people live in rural areas. (See fact sheet (<http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/Archive/2005/Jul/19-103323.html>).)

"We have identified sectors like agricultural education, food processing, [and] water management ... as the key areas which will be the focus of this agriculture initiative," Singh said.

He also praised U.S.-India cooperation in science and technology and said India will hold a summit to attract investors in late 2006.

Prime Minister Singh also thanked Bush for his expressions of solidarity following the July 11 terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

The transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/07/20060717-1.html>) of remarks by Bush and Singh is available on the White House Web site.

BUSH, BRAZILIAN LEADER DISCUSS WAYS TO ADVANCE WTO TALKS

Following his meeting with Prime Minister Singh, President Bush met with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil. The Indian and Brazilian leaders, as well as leaders of China, Mexico and South Africa had been invited to join the second day of discussions at the G8 to discuss the Doha round of the World Trade Organization (WTO) talks, among other topics.

Bush said the United States is "committed" to a successful conclusion of the WTO talks. He added that President Lula is a leader in the trade discussions, and both governments "must continue to strategize" in order for the Doha

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Effective Voter Education Encourages Informed Decisions

By Carolee Walker
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Voter education is an ongoing process that begins in the schools through civics education and continues throughout a person's life, said Kay Maxwell, immediate past president of the League of Women Voters of the United States, in a Democracy Dialogues webchat July 17.

"There will never be perfect voter education in any nation," she said. But "people need to understand why it is important to vote and how and why they are directly affected by who is elected to office."

Since 1920 the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization with local chapters in all 50 states, has worked to improve voter education in the United States and throughout the world. The league sponsors the televised U.S. presidential debates.

People have different opinions about which candidate or party might be the better choice, Maxwell said. "Just because voters are educated does not mean they will also make the same choice that you or I might," she said. The goal is to give voters the opportunity to educate themselves about issues and candidates so that they can make their own informed choice.

Even countries with low literacy rates can have successful voter education programs, Maxwell said. Radio and television are good tools in situations where the literacy rate is low, along with debates and public gatherings where voters can hear from organizations and candidates, she added.

Journalists, Maxwell said, are essential for providing information about candidates, processes and issues.

Maxwell also praised the World Wide Web. "The Internet is a wonderful new tool for voter education and is being used widely," Maxwell said. Candidates and parties use the Internet to educate voters through their Web sites, she said, and some organizations, such as the League of Women Voters, offer nonpartisan information. SMS (short message system) messaging and cell phones are being used to spread, and even broadcast, information people cannot get elsewhere and has been an important tool in recent elections around the world. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2006&m=March&x=20060301165354bcrekaw0.952984&t=xarchives/xarchitem.html>).)

In the United States, some states allow voters to register to vote over the Internet, Maxwell said.

"Getting people to register to vote is a challenge," Maxwell said. "In the United States, we try to accomplish that in many ways." In Connecticut, where Maxwell lives, for example, the League of Women Voters holds voter registration at the beach in the summer. "We try everything," Maxwell said.

Just as it is imperative to get voters to register, it is important that all voters have information about the election process and the laws.

"All voters need to understand what they may and may not do, what the consequences are of

committing fraud, and also know how they can report cases of fraud to appropriate authorities," Maxwell said. "All voters need confidence in the results of elections."

Maxwell is a member of the International Women's Forum (<http://iwforum.browsermedia.com/>) and the Women's Foreign Policy Group (<http://www.wfpg.org/>).

A transcript (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2006/Jul/17-238135.html>) of Maxwell's discussion and information on upcoming webchats are available on Webchat Station (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Products/Webchats.html>).

Additional information (<http://www.lwv.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home>) about the League of Women Voters is available on the organization's Web site.

Democracy Dialogues (<http://www.democracy.gov/>) is a global conversation addressing democratic governance through interactive public forums, readings, videos, photos and historical documents, with a new topic introduced every two months.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>.)

U.S. Commerce Secretary Urges Senate To Reform Immigration

By Lauren Monsen
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The comprehensive immigration reforms proposed by President Bush can help protect U.S. borders while also meeting the needs of a growing economy, says U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez.

In his July 12 testimony before the U.S. Senate's Judiciary Committee, Gutierrez argued that the United States must establish a new immigration policy that can accommodate the realities of the 21st century. "I believe immigration is the domestic social issue of our time -- and a key to our future economic health," he told lawmakers. The president's proposal, he said, is a carefully considered approach that aims to enhance border security and, at the same time, to ensure an adequate work force for U.S. businesses.

"The reality is that our economy is growing faster than [that of] any other large, industrialized nation," he said. "Our unemployment rate is below the average of the past four decades."

Although a low unemployment rate generally is considered good news, it can pose unexpected challenges for business owners, Gutierrez said. "Our economy -- like other major industrial economies -- faces the challenge of an aging and increasingly educated workforce," he said. "The result is that we have jobs that American citizens either aren't willing or aren't available to do. I continually hear from industries that they are having difficulty finding workers."

Gutierrez recalled a recent conversation with a restaurant executive who observed that "when the unemployment rate is below 5 or 6 percent, it's a real challenge to staff restaurants." Service industries, such as restaurants and hotels, are particularly vulnerable to this problem, he added.

"Immigrants aren't crossing our borders to look for a handout," said Gutierrez. "They're seeking jobs that are available." The president's proposed guest-worker program would benefit U.S. businesses and hardworking immigrants alike, he said.

Gutierrez cited reports suggesting that a majority of Americans now favor the president's approach, as opposed to a hard-line strategy that seeks only to punish illegal immigration. "Two-thirds of American voters say they support bills that include a temporary worker program or path to citizenship, rather than one that focuses solely on border security," he said.

Of course, "everyone agrees it is essential to secure our borders," Gutierrez said. Comprehensive immigration reform, Gutierrez said, "would create a legal means for more workers to enter the United States for a limited time to fill labor needs," and "would take the pressure off of our borders." And advanced technology, such as biometric cards that can confirm a person's identity, will make it much easier to ensure work site enforcement of the new rules, said Gutierrez.

The commerce secretary said Bush's proposal also addresses the question of what to do about the



Carlos M. Gutierrez
U.S. Secretary of Commerce

12 million people who are currently residing illegally in the United States. "The president has said that deporting 12 million individuals wouldn't be wise, practical, or humane," he said. But instead of offering unconditional amnesty, Bush is advocating "a hard-earned path to legalization, which would require meeting [certain] conditions," said Gutierrez. He also said the president believes "we are a nation of immigrants, and we must honor the great tradition of the melting pot. It is a false choice to think the immigration debate is a battle between America being a welcoming society and being a nation of laws. We can be both, because we are both."

Gutierrez said that many countries today face declining populations. "We can avoid this problem and build a vibrant, diverse country in part through immigration," he said. U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee.

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World Bank Chief Says African Development . . .

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WOLFOWITZ CITES POSITIVE GROWTH RATES

Wolfowitz mentioned that there are some 15 African countries that in the last 10 years have had sustained positive growth rates of 4 percent or more. Two of the best performers in that group -- Mozambique and Rwanda -- range between 8 percent and 10 percent economic growth annually, he said. He reminded that both countries are recovering from recent political disasters: Rwanda experienced a horrendous genocide, which claimed almost 1 million lives, and Mozambique endured a long and bloody civil war. "But with good leadership and the energy of the people, those countries

have been growing," Wolfowitz said.

Citing another economic success story -- Tanzania -- he said good economic growth has a positive impact on the whole society. School enrollment in Tanzania has gone from 65 percent just a few years ago to more than 90 percent today. Similar results can be found in Mozambique, Ghana and Uganda, he added.

In addition, he said, just five years ago, there were 16 wars across Africa. Now there are six -- which are still too many -- but now 10 additional countries are enjoying peace, he said.

Wolfowitz cited a Gallup Poll of 2005 that found that Africans

were the most optimistic people in the world, with 57 percent expecting this year to be better than last.

In his view, there are good reasons for this optimism: an increasingly accountable political and democratic leadership on the continent; an informed citizenry that is becoming more demanding; and the dynamism of the African private sector as well as significant increases in international support.

Wolfowitz said there are several key efforts that must continue to achieve lasting economic growth and development: an improvement of the business environment and infrastructure; continuation of reforms now under way; a further opening of trade; and the provision

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U.S. Law Enhancing Africa's Economy . . .

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IMPORTANT TO BUILD TRADE CAPACITY, TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Liser said there are "a number of areas that need to be looked at" with regard to supply-side constraints, like the high cost of energy and inefficient transportation due to poor roads, rail, ports and aviation. For that reason, she called trade-capacity building or aid for trade "really, really critical."

"The question of what is holding Africa back -- Is it government policies outside of Africa that are barriers to their exports ... or is it something that is happening domestically within Africa that has to do with policies that are in place

that impede business and trade in one way or another? -- we can look at it as a little bit of both."

Thanks to AGOA, she said, Africans now have access to the U.S. market. "Something like 98 percent of the products that Africa sends to the United States comes in duty-free, zero duty, no tariffs," she said.

Despite such penetration in the United States, she said, market access is still very important for African products going to the fastest-growing economies in the world: India, China and Brazil.

"You have duty-free access to the U.S. market, a \$12 trillion market. But we still need to work on getting you duty-free access to all the

other markets, including those in Asia, Latin America -- and this is where the Doha round of trade negotiations comes in," she said, referring to the World Trade Organization talks aimed at creating market access and reform in agriculture and expanding opportunities for manufactured goods and services. (See USA and the WTO (http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/WTO.html).)

"But even with considerable market access to the U.S.," Liser added, "we are not seeing enough African products coming in."

Africa's share of world trade currently stands at about 1.5 percent of all world trade, the assistant trade representative said. "That is

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Space Shuttle Discovery Returns to Earth

By Cheryl Pellerin
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Space shuttle Discovery and its crew are home after a 13-day, 8.5 million-kilometer trip to the International Space Station to test shuttle safety improvements, repair a space station rail car and produce high-resolution images of the shuttle during and after its July 4 launch.

Discovery (STS-121) commander Steve Lindsey, pilot Mark Kelly and mission specialists Mike Fossum, Piers Sellers, Lisa Nowak and Stephanie Wilson touched down at 9:14 a.m. EDT (1314 GMT) July 17 at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Lindsey and Kelly guided the ship as it descended from space at a speed of 27,239 kilometers per hour. During re-entry and landing, the orbiter is not powered by engines. Instead, it flies like a high-tech glider, relying first on its steering jets and then its aerosurfaces to control the airflow around it.

After landing, Lindsey and his crew did a traditional walk-around inspection of the shuttle.

"We had two major objectives on this flight," Lindsey said from the runway. "The first one was to complete the return-to-flight test objectives that [STS-114] started, and the second one was to get us ready ... for space station assembly and I think we accomplished both those

objectives. We're ready to go assemble [the] station and we're ready to start flying shuttles on a regular basis."

The flight also verified the safety of the biggest aerodynamic change to the external fuel tank in shuttle history.

The protuberance air load (PAL) ramps -- which prevent unsteady air flow under tank cable trays and pressurization lines on the external tank's surface -- were removed after a piece of insulating foam came off this area during Discovery's flight in 2005.

The same sort of foam loss and subsequent damage to the spacecraft caused the space shuttle Columbia accident and the loss of its seven-member crew in 2003.

COMPLETING SPACE STATION ASSEMBLY

With Discovery and its crew safely home, the stage is set to resume assembly of the International Space Station.

To the international partners of the space station, at a press conference after the Discovery landing, NASA Administrator Mike Griffin said, "Thanks ... for hanging in there with us over the last three and a half years since we lost Columbia. The nation vowed to return the shuttle to flight and to finish the station. That was a controversial decision but we have kept to that path and we will continue to keep to that path."

Preparations continue for the launch of space shuttle Atlantis (STS-115) in late August or early September to deliver more truss segments to the station.

"There are a lot of challenges in front of us," said

NASA Associate Administrator for Space Operations Bill Gerstenmaier. "We're gearing up for the next flights and space station assembly. Those will be as challenging or more challenging than what we've just done, but the teams are working real hard, not only on the next flight but the flights after that."

Atlantis is expected to be moved to the launch pad in early August, and NASA managers plan to meet shortly thereafter to clear the shuttle for its first mission since October 2002.

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The STS-121 Crew gathers for a photo in the International Space Station, July 9, 2006
(Photo: NASA)

U.S. Law Enhancing Africa's Economy . . .

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all that Africa has," and that percentage includes oil, she added.

"If Africa could increase its share of world trade by 1 more percent, this would generate about \$70 billion of new revenue for Africa and that ... is about three times all of the aid that Africa gets," she told the delegates. Such a change, she said, could have a huge impact on Africa's economic growth and development.

Liser said it is important for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governments and business people to think of ways to increase Africa's share of trade, whether its exports go to the United States or other nations.

Liser appeared on a panel that also included G.M. Sasore, from the Nigerian Production Export Council, and Nazir Karamagi, minister of trade from Tanzania. Both praised AGOA for helping to establish a closer U.S.-Africa trade and economic partnership.

The Leon H. Sullivan VII Summit runs July 17-20 and has as its theme "Africa: A Continent of Opportunities -- Building Partnerships for Success." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2006&m=July&x=20060716191252yerocwc0.914776>).)

For information on U.S. policy, see U.S. Aid to Africa (http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid_to_africa.html) and Global Development and Foreign Aid (http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/global_development.html).

Additional information (<http://www.thesullivanfoundation.org/foundation/>) about the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation and its past summits is available on the organization's Web site.

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round to be successful.

The Brazilian leader said it was "extremely important" that the G8 was discussing the trade talks, which are stalled currently. "I am convinced that now is the time for us to make a political decision, whatever might it be," he said, adding that the trade negotiators have done a lot of work to advance the talks, but now need the G8 leaders to solve the remaining issues.

Difficult agricultural trade issues have blocked movement in the negotiations, formally called the Doha Development Agenda, almost since they were launched in 2001. Little time remains to negotiate

thousands of details on agriculture, industrial goods and services before the end of 2006, the goal for concluding the Doha round in line with expiration of U.S. trade negotiating authority six months later. (See USA and the WTO (http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/WTO.html).)

A July 16 statement by the G8 said the talks should be revived by the end of August, calling upon WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy to facilitate an agreement "on negotiating modalities on agriculture and industrial tariffs within a month," and for all countries to commit to "concerted leadership and action" in order to have the Doha round reach a successful conclusion.

President Lula also mentioned the possibility of Brazil's cooperation with the United States on renewable energy and fuel sources, mentioning his country's biodiesel program, as well as plans to develop the "H-bio" fuel, made by blending oil seeds and vegetable oil with petroleum.

President Bush said he is interested in continuing the bilateral dialogue on the subject, saying Brazil "has been a leader in development of biofuels." (The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

United States, Russia Support Peaceful . . .

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International Atomic Energy Agency, to "allow all nations to enjoy the benefits of nuclear energy without pursuing uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing capabilities," which could be used to make nuclear weapons.

The statement mentioned Russia's proposal to provide international nuclear fuel services and the U.S. Global Nuclear Energy Partnership proposal to develop new technologies for reactors and fuel cycles, as well as other measures that are designed to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation.

Both countries acknowledged the need for the continued development of new technologies that will reduce the risk of proliferation, promote safe nuclear waste management and improve the economic viability and environmental safety of nuclear reactors.

The two leaders backed the July 12 decision by the foreign ministers of the five permanent (P-5) members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany to refer Iran's nuclear program to the Security Council for discussion, saying they are "especially concerned by the failure of the Iranian government to engage seriously on the proposals made by the P-5 countries and Germany." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=July&x=20060712135504ndyblehs0.556286>).)

They also expressed concern over North Korea's recent ballistic missile tests and urged that nation to return to multilateral talks and to implement its September 19, 2005 agreement to abandon its nuclear programs in return for economic incentives and security assurances.

On July 15, the U.N. Security Council adopted unanimously a resolution that calls for North Korea to suspend all activities related to its ballistic missile program and requires U.N. member states to refrain from trading with North Korea on missile-related goods and technology. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=July&x=20060715174904atiayduj0.3738367>).)

"The United States and the Russian Federation are actively working for unity among the UN Security Council members on these sensitive issues. We will continue consultations with our G-8 partners to strengthen the global non-proliferation regime," according to the statement.

Both countries also pledged to reinforce their peaceful nuclear cooperation with India, citing the Indian government's nonproliferation commitments and "closer alignment with the nonproliferation regime mainstream."

The full text (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/07/20060717-2.html>) of the joint statement is available on the White House Web site.

For full coverage of the G8 meetings, see G8 Summit 2006, St. Petersburg, Russia (http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/group_of_8/g8_summit_2006.html).

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World Bank Chief Says . . .

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of more post-conflict support.

Wolfowitz said the World Bank again is concentrating on infrastructure projects. The bank's investment in this category, he said, has increased from \$600 million to \$1.5 billion in the past fiscal year and will likely reach \$2.4 billion in the coming fiscal year.

The Leon H. Sullivan VII Summit in Abuja runs through July 20 and has as its theme: "Africa: A Continent of Opportunities; Building Partnerships for Success." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=July&x=20060716191252yerochw0.914776>).)

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International Space Station Crew Readies for September Launch

By Cheryl Pellerin
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Station assembly once again will be the main focus for International Space Station crews beginning in September, when two members of the new crew, Expedition 14, arrive after a Soyuz launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Two return-to-flight shuttle missions nearly are complete, with the shuttle Discovery set to return to Earth July 17, some 13 days after it began. These missions have focused on shuttle safety and on stemming the loss of insulation foam from the shuttle's external tank during launch.

Now, Expedition 14 commander and science officer Mike Lopez-Alegria said during a July 13 press briefing at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Texas, "our main theme for [the upcoming] mission is that we're going to ramp up the assembly again after the tragic loss of Columbia."

Space shuttle Columbia and its seven-member crew were lost in 2003 when the spacecraft disintegrated on re-entry to Earth's atmosphere because of a hole made during launch in one of the shuttle's wings by a piece of insulating foam from the external tank.

Lopez-Alegria, a NASA astronaut born in Spain and raised in California, has flown on shuttle missions in 1995, 2000 and 2002, and conducted five spacewalks. Other members of Expedition 14 are Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin and NASA astronaut Suni Williams.

Tyurin, who will be the crew's flight engineer and Soyuz commander, is an engineering graduate of Moscow Aviation Institute. In 2001, he lived aboard the space station for 125 days.

Williams, a commander in the U.S. Navy, will be a flight engineer on expeditions 14 and 15. She will arrive for a six-month stay at the space station on the STS-116 shuttle mission scheduled for December, joining Lopez-Alegria and Tyurin and replacing European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut Thomas Reiter as a third station crewmember.

She will stay on the station until spring 2007, and Reiter will return to Earth with the STS-116 crew.

Japanese spaceflight participant Daisuke Enomoto will launch with Lopez-Alegria and Tyurin from Baikonur in September under a commercial agreement with Roscosmos, the Russian Federal Space Agency.

"I believe I was born to go to space," Enomoto said at the press briefing. "I've had a dream since I was 5 years old -- that was my motivation to go to space."

The Japanese businessman, who paid \$20 million for the ride into space, will stay on the station for eight days and participate in physiology experiments developed by ESA. He will return to Earth with Expedition 13 flight engineer Jeff Williams and commander Pavel Vinogradov, now aboard the space station.

The Expedition 14 crew has an ambitious schedule, Lopez-Alegria said, that includes moving a Soyuz

spacecraft from one dock to another to make room for an incoming Russian Progress unmanned freighter spacecraft, a November spacewalk in a Russian spacesuit, and three spacewalks in December and three in January 2007.

In February 2007, Lopez-Alegria added, the crew will send one unmanned Progress freighter back to Russia and receive another one loaded with new supplies, and welcome a currently planned visit by shuttle flight STS-117. In March 2007, Lopez-Alegria and Tyurin will return to Kazakhstan, and Williams will stay on the space station and become part of Expedition 15.

"Clearly, we have some challenges," Lopez-Alegria said. "I think the biggest ones are the limited time we have and all we're trying to accomplish in that time."

More information about Expedition 14 (http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/expeditions/expedition14/index.html) is available at the NASA Web site.

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Space Shuttle Discovery Returns . . .

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"We've got 16 flights to go to assemble the station and hopefully do a Hubble [Space Telescope] repair, and that's what we want to do," Griffin said, "but we've got to take that one flight at a time."

The 14-year-old Hubble telescope could be useless by 2009 unless new batteries and gyroscopes are delivered and installed.

MOST PHOTOGRAPHED MISSION

STS-121 was the most photographed shuttle mission, with more than 100 high-definition, digital, video and film cameras documenting the launch and climb to orbit.

Data from these images helped assess whether the orbiter sustained damage and whether that damage posed a risk to Discovery's return to Earth.

The STS-121 mission also bolstered the International Space Station. Fossum and Sellers, with the help of crewmates, completed three spacewalks. The third spacewalk was confirmed after mission managers determined there was enough electrical power to add another day to the flight.

The astronauts tested the boom extension to the shuttle's 50-foot robotic arm as a work platform. They removed and replaced a cable that provides power, command and data and video connections to the station's mobile transporter rail car.

The transporter is used to move a platform containing the station's robotic arm along the truss of the complex.

During the third spacewalk, the astronauts tested techniques for inspecting and repairing the reinforced carbon-carbon segments that protect the shuttle's nose cone and leading edge of the wings.

FULL STATION CREW

Discovery delivered a third crew-member and more than 12,700 kilograms of equipment and supplies to the station.

European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Reiter joined Russian Pavel Vinogradov and American Jeff Williams. This is the first time since May 2003 that the station crew has had three members.

President Bush called the astronauts July 11 to congratulate them on a successful mission and thank them for their work to further the U.S. Vision for Space Exploration, which calls for NASA to send people back to the moon, and then to Mars and beyond.

STS-121 was the 115th shuttle mission and the 18th to visit the space station. The landing marked Discovery's 32nd flight. Discovery will now be serviced and prepared for its next mission, STS-116, scheduled for December.

More information (http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/index.html) about STS-121 and the upcoming STS-115 mission is available at the NASA Web site.

For ongoing coverage of the U.S. space program, see Science and Technology (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/scitech.html).

Additional information on STS-121 and other related stories can be found on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) website: www.nasa.gov.

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New USAID/Ethiopia Mission Director . . .

(Continued from page 1)

modern family planning methods, and raised the immunization coverage through the USAID/Ministry of Health-supported community health initiatives. The gross enrollment rates for girls in SNNPR have also increased significantly as a direct result of increased investment in primary education and girls' attendance.

Mr. Anders commended the USAID-funded programs in SNNPR, and emphasized the importance of continued partnership with the government of Ethiopia, the NGOs and community members to ensure lasting improvements in the health and well being of Ethiopian citizens.

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German Children's Library . . .

(Continued from page 7)

Associations and Institutions (IFLA), is based on the American program designed to work with libraries to select books and other information material on the United States suitable to the local area's needs. Germany is participating actively through the U.S. Embassy in Berlin and public libraries throughout the country.

"American authors will also visit here in Stralsund to talk about the literature that children in the United States enjoy, and information about study abroad programs will help Stralsund's young people see firsthand the historical sites and cities that they can read about in these books," the first lady said.

A strong supporter of literacy, the first lady stated upcoming plans the Bush administration has to support the cause, "To help governments ensure that children and adults in their countries learn to read," she said, "we'll host a White House Conference on Global Literacy in New York this September during the United Nations General Assembly."

A transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/07/20060713-5.html>) of the Laura Bush remarks is available on the White House Web site.

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U.S. Cherishes Individual Rights . . .

(Continued from page 14)

United States outside of its territory." The law of armed conflict, or international humanitarian law, provides the legal framework regarding some of the questions raised by the committee, Waxman said.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, by its very terms, does not apply outside the territory of a state party, Waxman told the committee. "This has been the U.S. position for more than 55 years," Waxman said.

The United States is committed to upholding its covenant obligations, Waxman said, but he told the committee it is important that the United States state when those obligations apply.

"While the U.S. obligations under the Covenant do not apply outside of U.S. territory, it is important to recall that there is a body of both domestic and international law that protects individuals outside U.S. territory," Waxman said. "As a matter of domestic U.S. constitutional law, U.S. citizens enjoy a wide range of constitutional protections outside of U.S. territory."

Many rights protected by the U.S. Constitution, such as freedom of religion, speech, press and assembly, the right to trial by jury, the prohibition on unreasonable searches and seizures, and the prohibition on cruel and unusual punishments, also find expression and protection in the U.N. covenant, Waxman said.

"As citizens of the United States, we have much to be proud of in our civil rights achievements at home and our efforts in promoting human rights abroad," Waxman said. "We also recognize that along with the role the United States plays in the international system come continuing – indeed, never-ending – responsibilities."

For additional information, see United States and U.N. Reform (http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/UNGA_2005.html).

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